(MDA) is used for financing various export promotion activities such as (i) market research, commodity research, area survey and research programmes; (ii) export publicity and dissemination of information; (iii) sending of trade delegations and study teams (iv) grant-in-aid to Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) and other approved organisations for developmental activities. Grant-in-aid to the EPCs has been pegged to the export performance of the respective Councils. The Councils are presently eligible to receive MDA funding to the extent of 0.01% of the export performance of the previous year with minimum and maximum limits. In addition, grants for special projects are also provided to the grantee organisations on the basis of functional requirements. The entire fund is utilised for export development activities. The EPCs are expected to meet their administrative costs from their own resources.

The allocations received during the last three years under this head are as under:—

1994-95	—	Rs. 13 crores.
1995-96	—	Rs. 16 crores.
1996-97	—	Rs. 20 crores.
Provision for 1997-98	—	Rs. 20 crores.

The MDA Scheme has proved to be a successful instrument for encouraging export promotion activities, in addition to the normal trade promotion activities like organisation of exhibitions abroad, buyer-seller meets, mounting trade delegations etc., MDA assistance is also being provided for dissemination of trade information, encouraging electronic commerce, conducting surveys and research studies etc. MDA funds are also being provided for contesting anti-dumping cases abroad. The Scheme is functioning well and has been sucessful in meeting its objectives.

Import of New and Used Tyres

1429. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS *GUPTA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed import of new and used tyres;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the policy in this regard;

(c) whether the domestic tyre manufacturing industry has opposed the policy; and

(d) if so, the details and Government's reaction to their apprehensions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the current Export & Import Policy announced on 31.3.97, import of new and used typres has been permitted freely.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The representation of the tyre manufacturing industry is under examination and a decision, as and when taken, shall be announced through a notification.

Upward Revision of Export Targets

1430. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export targets for 1997-98 are being revised upwardly;

(b) if so, what are the proposed targets;

(c) whether the strategy to achieve these targets for exports is also going to be revised; and

(d) if so, the salient points of new strategy may be indicated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Export targets for the year 1997-98 have been fixed at US$ 39052 million. No revision has been proposed so far.